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RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DOEE-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	DTC-01	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-01

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-----52B6CD 161535Z /38

O 161527Z JUN 94  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4747  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY HARARE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 008478

LONDON FOR MCKINLEY; PARIS FOR PERLOW

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PINS, MASS, RW, SF, UN  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIATION IN  
RWANDAN CONFLICT

REF: A) PRETORIA 8217 B) IIR 6 880 0195 94 (NOTAL)

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1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON JUNE 15, LOCAL PAPERS CARRIED A SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION STORY THAT PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA HAD BEEN ASKED BY BOTH SIDES OF THE RWANDAN CIVIL WAR TO MEDIATE TALKS TO END THE CONFLICT. THE APPROACHES WERE REPORTEDLY MADE DURING THE OAU SUMMIT IN TUNIS. THE NEWS STORY IS BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE IN TUNIS ON JUNE 14 BY PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN JOEL NETSHITENDZE. NETSHITENDZE TOLD REPORTERS THAT MANDELA IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO WARRING PARTIES. POLOFF SPOKE WITH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA ROELF VAN VUUREN ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 15. VAN VUUREN SAID THAT DFA HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIATION. HE SPECULATED THAT MANDELA HAD AGREED TO BECOME

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INVOLVED "OFF THE CUFF." VAN VUUREN HOPES TO GET A READ-OUT ON THE INITIATIVE WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION RETURNS TO PRETORIA. HE AGREED TO KEEP US INFORMED.

3. JUNE 15 PAPERS ALSO CARRIED A RELATED STORY ON THE PREVIOUSLY MOOTED POSSIBLE PROVISION BY SOUTH AFRICA OF 50 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS TASK FORCE IN RWANDA. REPORTEDLY, MANDELA TOLD A LUNCHEON AUDIENCE AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN TUNIS ON JUNE 14 THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE U.N. TO LEASE THE APC'S WITH DRIVERS TO THE TASK FORCE. MANDELA SAID THAT THERE WERE "PROBLEMS" WITH THIS REQUEST AND THE ISSUE WAS STILL BEING DISCUSSED. MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE "PROBLEMS" RELATE TO THE DRIVERS. AS REPORTED REFTELS, NEITHER THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (SANDF) NOR DFA FAVOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT: DFA CLAIMS OF BEING TOTALLY UNINFORMED ABOUT A POTENTIALLY MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ARE PLAUSIBLE. THE QUESTION OF THE 50 ARMORED PERSONNEL

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CARRIERS POSES DIFFICULTIES BOTH TO DFA AND TO THE  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. FOR EXAMPLE, MOVING THE APC'S  
FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO RWANDA WOULD BE A COSTLY  
VENTURE. IN FACT, IF SOUTH AFRICA DOES AGREE TO  
PROVIDE THE APC'S, SOME OF OUR SOUTH AFRICAN  
CONTACTS SPECULATE THAT WE WILL BE ASKED TO  
TRANSPORT THEM TO RWANDA. END COMMENT.

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5. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LYMAN

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